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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET



SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Jordan Bureau

FROM:

EXTENSION

NO.

Chief, Operations Group

DATE

May 1988

STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

1.

C/Ops

16 JUN 1988

2.

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Exec. Reg.

FBIS-4009-88
1 June 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH : Acting Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Jordan Bureau--May 1988

I. GENERAL

A. The Jordanian Government and the country's entire business community ground to a halt early in the month owing to the heavy burden of observing the Ramadan daytime fast during many days of khamsin weather (hot, dry easterly winds from the desert carrying fine particles of sand and dust). The halt then continued during four weekdays of feasting and several subsequent days of recovery.

B. Hundreds of people in four eastern districts of Amman were hit late in the month by severe illnesses caused by drinking contaminated water. Following laboratory tests of the poisoning cases, repair work on the old water networks, and Cabinet discussions of the water situation, the areas were once again declared safe. Soon thereafter a number of responsible officials were removed from office in the Ministry of Water and Irrigation in an administrative action said to be totally unconnected with the cases of water contamination. Embassy housing areas were not affected by the water problem.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

Bureau received kudos from the American Embassy in Cairo and the acting chief of operations for our "initiative" in translating an interview with Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi which appeared in the 22 April issue of Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR. Amembassy Cairo expressed thanks from our avid readers there for making this "important" interview accessible to Washington analysts and field consumer.

B. Technical

Bureau installed BACH 2.1 successfully 12 May after the package of materials from ESG/ADD finally arrived via international mail.

IV. VISITS

To the bureau: OMS Safety Officer [] on 2
May for an inspection of the premises and to make

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recommendations concerning one window lock, the lowering of one fire extinguisher, and several others useful subjects.

Mideast analyst [redacted], 20-25 May, on TDY for orientation at the bureau and meetings with local journalists and government officials.

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From the bureau: Deputy Chief [redacted] to Tel Aviv, 22-29 May, on TDY for orientation and training regarding a modernized bureau in relation to her next assignment in Headquarters.

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V. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Junior editor [redacted] and Administrative Assistant [redacted] participated in the local Hash Harriers 10K run late in May. Brian ran so well, in his initial run with the Harriers, that he has been selected to run next time with an additional handicap of a toilet seat around his neck. Bureau personnel are uncertain of the significance of this particular honor. Brian, however, is obviously flush with success.

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[redacted]

Jordan Bureau Chief

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Attachment:

Production Report